[75 cont.]

516 The habit of picking up objects with the great toe is at least three-quarters anthropological. According to Joest, there is no particular squatting or sitting position; on the other hand, standing on one leg with the sole of the other foot supported against the upper part of the thigh is very common. A fear of rain is also pronounced, although Joest probably exaggerates somewhat when he asserts that the natives generally do not go out when it is raining. Finally, the peculiar expression of assent by frowning should be mentioned (1).

821

201

1. Joest in Baessler, pp. 392 f., and Tagebuch, p. 57. Concerning the fear of rain, cf. also Festetics de Tolna, Chez les Cannibales, pp. 268 f.

[113]

128 I shall now turn to a description of the culture, beginning with the externals and proceeding gradually to the questions of the social and religious life.

Ornamentation and Clothing

In his love of adornment, the Santa Cruz Islander is a true Melanesian, and, as everywhere in Melanesia, it is the man who is most adorned. Ornamentation and clothing are essentially the same on the various islands of the group; for the sake of greater clarity, I shall therefore first restrict myself to the main island Ndeni and then discuss the slight deviations on the other islands.

301 [171]

302 [386] The adult Ndeni man as a rule wears his hair uniformly short (cf. Figs. 1-3), but often powdered white with lime or bleached blond, sometimes even dyed yellow or red (2). Fops

2. Dalrymple, p. 78. Burney, p. 150. Labillardière, p. 256. Dillon, p. 292. Joest, Tagebuch, p. 49. According to Joest, lime serves to kill lice. Individual

[515]

[152 cont.]

723 incantation. Lata then builds a second boat, which the men of the village are unable to move from the spot because it is so heavy, but which moves by itself from the bush to the village when Lata sings his magic song. Sinota cannot do that either. Finally Lata plays a trick on his rival by tying hibiscus fiber over the cords of coconut fiber with which he has lashed together the parts of his canoe, and convincing Sinota that one [153] must use cords of hibiscus fiber for binding the parts of the boat. Then on his journey, when he has no more food, he makes a leftover nut bear fruit; on a line that has been tossed out a rat comes on board with a pouch from which water gushes forth (1). -- A god who lives in heaven, Tangiteala, from Taumako, is even more clearly shown to be a Polynesian divinity since in prayers he is addressed as Tangaloa. Offerings are made to him shortly before sunrise, and at the same time a triton horn is blown from a tree. In offering a sacrifice or a prayer to him no one may carry bows and arrows; the god would kill him. Heavy thunderstorms are a sign of his wrath; the occupants of boats that have been driven off course pray to him for favorable winds, and, after a safe landing, offer him a suckling pig, and the offerer sprinkles the milk of an unripe coconut on

Fig. 63.
Spirit figure of wood, white with black painting (menata, R.-J.-M. 4004, Joest Coll.); 27 1/2 cm. high.

1. O'Ferrall, pp. 227f. Codrington, pp. 167, 201.